

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraphs 0032, 0033 and 0034 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

A<sub>1</sub>  
Cont.

[0032] FIG. 3 shows an embodiment of a dynamic gain equalizer 300 constructed in accordance with the present invention, which employs the optical switch shown in FIG. 2. In FIGS. 2 and 3 like elements are denoted by like reference numerals. In addition to communication ports 340<sub>1</sub>-340<sub>n</sub>, the gain equalizer 300 also includes at least one monitoring port that is parallel to the communication ports 340<sub>1</sub>-340<sub>n</sub>. Two such monitoring ports 350<sub>1</sub> and 350<sub>2</sub> are depicted in FIG. 3. Similar to the communication ports 340<sub>1</sub>-340<sub>n</sub>, monitoring ports 350<sub>1</sub> and 350<sub>2</sub> have collimating lenses 315<sub>1</sub> and 315<sub>2</sub> respectively associated with them. Each of the monitoring port 350<sub>1</sub> and 350<sub>2</sub> is situated so that a wavelength component directed from that port is received by the narrow band, free space switch that is used to route that given wavelength component in the previously described manner. However the monitoring ports 350<sub>1</sub> and 350<sub>2</sub> are situated so that each wavelength component passes through the thin film filter, but not the collimating lens, of the appropriate narrow band, free space switch. For example, if wavelength component  $\lambda_2$  is directed from monitoring port 350<sub>1</sub>, it will traverse thin film filter 302 but not collimating lens 322. Rather, as described below, wavelength component  $\lambda_2$  will be received by a detector associated with the monitoring port 350<sub>1</sub>.

[0033] In accordance with the present invention, a dynamic gain equalizer is provided in which each of the narrow band, free space switches include a detector associated with each of the monitoring ports that are provided. For example, in FIG. 3, which employs two monitoring ports 350<sub>1</sub> and 350<sub>2</sub>, the free space switch routing wavelength  $\lambda_2$  includes detectors 355<sub>1</sub> and 355<sub>2</sub>. Detectors 355<sub>1</sub> and 355<sub>2</sub> receive optical signals from monitoring ports 350<sub>1</sub> and 350<sub>2</sub>, respectively. Likewise, the free